

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 6

Introduced by Assembly Member Nestande

November 23, 2009

An act to add and repeal Section 44262.1 of the Education Code, relating to teacher credentialing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 6, as introduced, Nestande. Teacher credentialing: county-issued eminence credential.

Existing law authorizes the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, upon the recommendation of the governing board of a school district, to issue an eminence credential to a person who has achieved eminence in a field of endeavor taught or service practiced in the public schools of California. The eminence credential authorizes teaching in the public schools in the subject or subject area or the performance of services in the public schools at the level approved by the commission, as designated on the credential. An eminence credential is issued initially for a 2-year period and may be renewed for a 3-year period by the commission upon the request of the governing board of the school district. Upon completion of the 3-year renewal period, the holder of an eminence credential is eligible, upon application, for a clear teaching credential.

This bill, in addition, would authorize a county board of education, upon the recommendation of a school district, to authorize a county superintendent of schools to issue an eminence credential to a person who has demonstrated subject matter competence through an examination, college degree, or work experience, and if the subject or service in which the person demonstrates eminence is one that the

governing board wishes to have taught in the schools of the district. The issuance of an eminence credential would be required to be based on a recommendation from the governing board of the school district, a statement of proposed employment, and a verification of the eminence qualifications of the individual. The county board of education would be required to provide notice to the public of the individuals to whom it is considering issuing eminence credentials and would be authorized to charge the applicant a fee to recover costs incurred in processing an eminence credential application.

An applicant for a county-issued eminence credential would be required to comply with specified requirements relating to demonstration of moral character, including, but not limited to, successfully completing a moral character review conducted by the commission. The county-issued eminence credential would authorize teaching in the public schools in the authorizing county in the subject or subject area and at the level approved by the county superintendent of schools and would be issued initially for a 3-year period and renewable for a 2-year period. The bill would set forth the minimum requirements for renewal, including the study of health education and computer-based technology and completion of a program of personalized preparation and 2 semester units, or passage of an examination, on the United States Constitution. The holder of a county-issued eminence credential would be eligible to apply to the commission for a clear teaching credential upon completion of the 2-year renewal period. The clear teaching credential would authorize teaching in any public school in the state, in subjects and levels as approved by the commission.

A county office of education would be required to notify the commission when it issues and renews an eminence credential. The commission would be required to track and report on the county-issued eminence credentials in the same manner that existing eminence credentials are reported.

These provisions would become inoperative on January 1, 2014, and would be repealed on January 1, 2015.

By increasing the duties of county boards of education, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 44262.1 is added to the Education Code,
2 to read:
- 3 44262.1. (a) Upon the recommendation of a school district, a
4 county board of education may authorize a county superintendent
5 of schools to issue an eminence credential to an eminent individual
6 who has demonstrated subject matter competence through an
7 examination, college degree, or work experience in a subject matter
8 that the governing board wishes to have taught in the schools of
9 the district. This credential shall authorize the credentialholder to
10 teach in the public schools of the authorizing county in the subject
11 or subject area and at the level approved by the county
12 superintendent of schools.
- 13 (b) As used in this section, “eminent individual” means a person
14 who is recognized as eminent beyond the boundaries of his or her
15 community, has demonstrably advanced his or her field, and has
16 been acknowledged by his or her peers beyond the norm for others
17 in the specific endeavor.
- 18 (c) The requesting school district shall demonstrate how the
19 eminent individual will enrich the educational quality of the school
20 district and not how he or she will fill an employment need.
- 21 (d) The issuance of an eminence credential shall be based on a
22 recommendation from the governing board of the school district,
23 a verification of the eminence qualifications of the individual, and
24 a statement of proposed employment, as follows:
- 25 (1) The statement of employment in the district shall include
26 the proposed assignment of the credential applicant and a
27 certification of the intention of the district to employ the applicant
28 if granted an eminence credential.
- 29 (2) The verification of eminence qualifications of an applicant
30 for an eminence credential shall include:
- 31 (A) Recommendations from any of the following:
- 32 (i) Professional associations.
- 33 (ii) Former employers.
- 34 (iii) Professional colleagues.

1 (iv) Individuals or groups whose evaluations or
2 recommendations would support eminence.

3 (B) Documentation of achievement, which may include, but
4 need not be limited to, any of the following:

5 (i) Advanced degrees earned.

6 (ii) Distinguished employment.

7 (iii) Evidence of related study or experience.

8 (iv) Publications.

9 (v) Professional achievement.

10 (vi) Recognition attained for contributions to his or her field of
11 endeavor.

12 (3) The county board of education shall provide notice to the
13 public of the individuals to whom it is considering issuing
14 eminence credentials. Any association, group, or individual may
15 provide the county board of education with a written statement
16 regarding the qualifications of an individual under consideration
17 for an eminence credential.

18 (4) A county office of education may charge the applicant a fee
19 to recover, and not to exceed, costs incurred in processing eminence
20 credential applications.

21 (e) A county office of education may issue an initial eminence
22 credential for a three-year period and may renew an eminence
23 credential for two years upon receipt of an application for renewal
24 with a written statement of support from the governing board of
25 the school district adopted in a public meeting. Upon completion
26 of the two-year renewal period, the holder of a county issued
27 eminence credential shall be eligible to apply to the commission
28 for a clear teaching credential.

29 (f) The minimum requirements for the two-year renewal of the
30 county-issued eminence credential are all of the following:

31 (1) A valid three-year county-issued eminence credential.

32 (2) Two years of successful teaching as authorized by the
33 county-issued eminence credential.

34 (3) Completion of a program of personalized preparation as
35 approved by the commission. It is the intent of the Legislature that
36 the program of personalized preparation be consistent with whether
37 the credential holder performs full-time or part-time service.

38 (4) The study of health education, as specified in subparagraph
39 (A) of paragraph (4) of subdivision (c) of Section 44259.

1 (5) Completion of two semester units or passage of an
2 examination on the principles and provisions of the United States
3 Constitution, as specified in Section 44335.

4 (6) The study of computer-based technology, including the uses
5 of technology in educational settings.

6 (g) The commission may issue a clear teaching credential at the
7 end of five years of possession of the county-issued eminence
8 credential pursuant to this section with a written statement of
9 support from the governing board of the school district adopted in
10 a public meeting and submission of an application and the
11 application fee prescribed in regulations. The clear teaching
12 credential authorizes teaching in any public school in the state, in
13 the subject or subject area and at the level approved by the
14 commission.

15 (h) An applicant for an eminence credential issued pursuant to
16 this section shall comply with the requirements set forth in Sections
17 44339, 44340, 44341, 44345, 44346, and 44346.1, including, but
18 not limited to, successfully completing a moral character review
19 conducted by the commission, and holding a valid certificate of
20 clearance issued by the commission while he or she is employed
21 by a school district under this section.

22 (i) Upon issuance and renewal of an eminence credential, the
23 county office of education shall notify the commission. The
24 commission shall track and report all county-issued eminence
25 credentials in the same manner that existing eminence credentials
26 are reported.

27 (j) Each county that issues the eminence credential may issue
28 one eminence credential per year and one additional eminence
29 credential per year for each 200,000 pupils enrolled in the public
30 schools located in the county.

31 (k) This section shall become inoperative on January 1, 2014,
32 and, as of January 1, 2015, is repealed, unless a later enacted
33 statute, that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2015,
34 deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and
35 is repealed.

36 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
37 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
38 a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service
39 charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or

- 1 level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of Section
- 2 17556 of the Government Code.

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